AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method for transferring information in a time-multiplexed communication network, in which control information for controlling the operation and payload traffic of the network is conveyed in separate channels which are each defined by one or more time slots allocated in a recurrent frame, each of said time slots comprising an established number of n bits, said method comprising the steps of:

associating each of at least those time slots ~~(110A)~~ which define channels conveying payload traffic with a respective additional bit ~~(110B)~~ which is used as a flag for indicating whether control information exists regarding the time slot associated with the respective additional bit; and

conveying said control information, when said additional bit indicates the existence thereof, as at least some of the n bits of the time slot associated with said additional bit.

2. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the step of associating also the time slots which define channels conveying control information with a respective additional bit which is used as a flag for indicating whether control information exists regarding the time slot associated with the respective additional bit, said control information being conveyed as at least some of the n bits of the time slot associated with said respective additional bit.

3. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein said control information can be of different types and wherein only the existence of control

information and not the type of control information is indicated by the bit which is associated with the time slot in which said control information is conveyed.

4. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ wherein said control information **[[**(M0)**]]** identifies that the time slot in which the control information is conveyed does not convey payload.

5. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ wherein said control information **[[**(M1)**]]** identifies that the time slot in which the control information is conveyed replaces erroneous payload.

6. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ wherein said control information identifies that the time slot in which the control information is conveyed marks the start of a packet.

7. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ wherein said control information **[[**(M2)**]]** identifies that the time slot in which the control information is conveyed marks the end of a packet.

8. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ **claim 1**, which is used in respect of DTM time slots in a DTM network.

9. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ **claim 1**, which is used when conveying DTM time slots, each with its respective additional associated bit, over an underlying communication protocol.

10. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 9, which is used when conveying DTM time slots, each with its respective additional associated bit, over SDH/SONET.

11. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 10, wherein each individual DTM time slot of 64 bits to be conveyed over SDH/SONET is mapped together with said bit associated therewith to jointly hold 65 bits in a virtual container (VC) in SDH/ SONET.

12. (Original) A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein each individual DTM time slot of 64 bits to be conveyed over SDH/SONET is mapped together with said data bit associated therewith and an additional parity bit to jointly hold 66 bits in a virtual container (VC) in SDH/ SONET.

13. (Canceled).